



MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 39

SEPT. 30-OCT. 6

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

GRAHAM SKEDDED FOR ET, ESPN

LOS ANGELES---Former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham is scheduled to appear on ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT Thursday and on Roy Firestone's UP CLOSE on ESPN Oct. 8.

Graham, still threatening legal action over his physical condition he attributes to forced use of steroids, has told media sources he intends to be specific about his past connections with steroids.

Hulk Hogan is skedded for a Friday slot on THE ARSENIO HALL SHOW (like ET, syndicated by Paramount) and may be asked for a response.

CANDID BAM BAM SAYS SMILE

LOS ANGELES---Scott (Bam Bam) Bigelow has adopted a new venue for his tattooed head.

Bigelow appeared in a sketch during the syndicated version of CANDID CAMERA last Wednesday. Several unsuspecting victims were duped into believing Bigelow was going to destroy them (see MATWATCHING, page 5).

In the episode's finale, Bigelow came to the set and delivered a number of blows to host Don DeLuise (a double was used for DeLuise's bumps). DeLuise ended with the trademark, "Smile, you're on CANDID CAMERA," as Bigelow applied the camel clutch.

ZENK'S BOND SET IN MONDAY HEARING

JONESBORO GA---Former WCW TV champion Tom Zenk has posted \$36,000 bond on a series of charges after a Monday hearing in a Clayton County (GA) court.

Zenk, arrested Sept. 19 on charges of battery, as well as marijuana and steroid possession, was in the ring in a guest referee stint at Tuesday night's Center Stage TBS taping.

WCW officials are supporting Zenk until he has a hearing. MATWATCH will attempt to talk with WCW president Jack Petrik this week. Petrik returned from a trip to Tokyo Monday.

Who Will Blink?

LUCHA FIGHT: MADE- FOR TV WAR

It is wrestling's first legitimate strike of performers. And while Galavision's Lucha Libre series is only available in selected U.S. cable markets, television is at the center of this two-week-old labor dispute.

With MATWATCH having been focused on the television side of wrestling for nearly four years, we attempt to put the issue somewhat into perspective:



Steve

Beverly

***EMLL is the largest Lucha circuit in Mexico, probably the Latin equivalent of the WWF. While its weekly Friday night shows air regularly on the U.S. Galavision channel Sundays, the program is not seen nationally in Mexico.

***The leading Mexico City-based network has agreed, in principle, to carry

EMLL LUCHA LIBRE in a 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday time slot.

***While numerous attempts to organize wrestlers in the U.S. have failed, a huge majority of Lucha competitors and referees are unionized in the same fashion as the pro sports players associations. Only in Mexico, crossing a picket line is akin to blasphemy; unlike the 1987 NFL strike, in which a number of players went against the union walkout.

***The Mexican union has succeeded for two consecutive weeks in boycotting the scheduled Friday night EMLL show. EMLL controls the fates of nearly 200 wrestlers. This reduced the Galavision show Sunday night to a series of repeat matches from March and April, except for one Sept. 6 bout. In its weekly news update segment, the Lucha hosts acknowledge nothing about the walkout.

Early last week, the network, EMLL officials and union leaders were optimistic of a settlement. But negotiations deteriorated and at midweek, union execs told members not to report to any arena where a TV camera was present.

At heart is the same obstacle traditional U.S. territorial promoters faced in 1984 when Vince McMahon nationalized the WWF and syndicated his TV product. In metropolitan Mexico City alone, as many as 11 shows run each weekend with no TV base to promote them and are profitable. Promoters fear a high-gloss TV product available over-the-air will subsequently lure viewers solely to EMLL and make the still-healthy small shows appear inferior, killing business.

The difference from the American situation is: 1) the strength of the union and 2) the still small cable penetration (less than 4% of the Mexican populous has cable because of the poor standard of living).

A joint meeting of the parties is scheduled this week at the Radio-TV-Cinema Office in Mexico City. Leading U.S. Lucha analyst Steve Sims, who contributed to this column, says the parties are seeing "this is no publicity stunt. But you have to feel eventually, the TV people will have the bigger war chest. If it doesn't get settled soon, you have to believe the network could turn to Japan or Puerto Rico or even Vince McMahon for a quality TV product. And that would, in fact, accomplish the same thing as airing EMLL on free television."

You are certainly right about too many hardcore fans taking the business too seriously. I've always loved pro wrestling and viewed it as a mixture of comedy, acting and athleticism.

Nowadays when you read wrestling sheets, you read about steroid abuse, contract disputes and rancor between promoters and hardcore fans...in some cases, an all too serious and sometimes arrogant attitude of some smart fans' part.

It really isn't that difficult to become a smart fan, if you ask me. Just remember the basic cliché opinions. Some are as follows:

1. NWA was okay but WCW and Jim Herd are not.
2. WWF is a clown show and McMahon Jr. a despot.
3. Japanese wrestling is great and American promoters are racists.
4. U.S. promoters would be better off if they listened to our suggestions.
5. Bill Watts is the solution to any wrestling promotion's problems.

There is some validity in these widely reinforced opinions but unfortunately, they are all you read these days. Differing opinions in the letters pages of sheets are followed with obligatory letters for questioning the intelligence of the reader with a different opinion.

LARRY LOVELL
HILLSVILLE LA

Even though I have never been a part of the "hierarchy," I feel I have made both positive and negative contributions to this strange little subculture. All I know is that there is not very much to read about actual wrestling these days. There are many factions of the business to blame for the "National Enquirer" atmosphere which has cropped up in the last several months. What was the famous observation on mass media and TV by Marshall McLuhan: "The medium is the message?" Seems to me that this is where we are now. Unfortunately, there is no going back.

VIC STANLEY
LAFAYETTE IN

Can't you understand that when people make remarks like, "Let's get a contract out on Jim Herd," they're only joking? It seems to me you have lost your sense of humor. Besides, Herd's tried to hang you out to dry. Why defend him?

ELTON DUKES
ALEXANDRIA LA

(PSB: I don't find life-threatening statements jokes, no matter who is involved.)

**FIFTY YEARS OF
MAT TELEVISION**

THE EARLY NETWORK YEARS

Sources differ as to the actual commercially-sponsored start of pro wrestling on a television network. However, publications agree that NBC was the first network to offer mat coverage.

In WATCHING TELEVISION, Harry Castleman and Walter Podrazik document, "By mid-1944, it was clear that television wrestling and boxing were quite popular. With hordes of servicemen soon back from the war, Gillette felt it might be wise to expand its sports coverage."

The Gillette Razor Company's CAVALCADE OF SPORTS had been a radio standard since the late 1930s. The video edition premiered with boxing from Madison Square Garden Sept. 29, 1944, a Friday. With CAVALCADE scheduled three times a week on NBC and Tuesdays devoted to wrestling from New York's St. Nicholas Arena, the likely network squared circle debut was Tuesday, Oct. 3.

The two-and-a-half-hour weekly mat clashes were important not only for the future of wrestling but for television, as well. For one thing, Gillette became the first company to commit to weekly television sponsorship. Until this point, many advertising executives had been skeptical of video.

Wrestling was ideal for television for several reasons. In one aspect, wrestling was inexpensive to produce. Grapplers were not paid on the level of conventional actors, rent at the arenas was relatively cheap (some promoters owned their own buildings) and promoters enjoyed network exposure in exchange for the ability to hype their weekly live cards.

Second, wrestling's predominantly male audience expedited the sale of television sets for two reasons. One, the first exposure to wrestling and TV, in general, for many consumers was in bars or restaurants which were male-dominated; second, an investment as significant as a TV set was typically made by a male in the 1940s and '50s. Quickly promoters "began to emphasize the theatrical values of the contests above the sport itself, which TV insiders soon nicknamed 'flying beef (Castleman and Podrazik).'"

Financially-starved DuMont became the first network to join NBC's bandwagon with a series of weekly cards from New York's Jamaica Arena in the fall of 1946. CBS and ABC completed the four-network cycle by inserting wrestling into their schedules by 1950; however, TV historians insist DuMont "emphasized wrestling and turned it into a national fad."

Unlike its competitors, DuMont expanded mat coverage to three nights a week, making wrestling the first prime-time serial. Tensions from the Monday night cards built suspense for the Thursday matches---which, in turn, intensified the feuds for the Saturday clashes. Jack Brickhouse, who offers a nostalgia segment on WGN's WGN PRO WRESTLING/CHICAGO, did the blow-by-blow of the longest-running network series, the Saturday night show from Chicago's Marigold Garden every weekend for DuMont.

DuMont was always considered the "fourth network." Wrestling, along with boxing and a limited NFL package, kept the entire network alive until its collapse in August 1955. First, DuMont, unlike CBS, ABC or NBC, did not own a radio network from which profits could be plowed into television. Second, the cheap production costs provided DuMont a built-in alternative when the "big three" phased out mat coverage.

In the end, the increased number of television sets and broader sophistication of the audience, which became more attracted to bigger-budget sitcoms ---such as I LOVE LUCY---and high-ticket variety shows (Ed Sullivan, Milton Berle, Jackie Gleason), killed wrestling on network TV. CBS even abandoned boxing for a weekly dramatic series produced by 20th-Century Fox. When the movie studios began producing action-adventure network series for prime time, wrestling's antics appeared pale. In January 1955, DuMont sold its remaining owned TV station (WDTV/Pittsburgh). That was the white flag. On March 5, 1955, Dennis James called the final pinfall, in what would be the final foray of pro wrestling into network television for 30 years.

(Next week: the early TV mat stars and announcers).

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MATWATCHING

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Nasty Boys d. Phil Apollo/Bill Pierce; Ricky Steamboat d. Williams; Ted DiBiase d. Mark Thomas; (BARBER SHOP) Brutus Beefcake w. Legion of Doom; (CLIP) Hulk Hogan in "Suburban Commando;" I.R. Schyster d. Ray Garcia; Ric Flair d. Jim Powers. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Natural Disasters d. Joe Milano/Martin Roy; Bret Hart d. Brooklyn Brawler; (UPDATE) Sgt. Slaughter tells Gene Okerlund he's sorry for his traitor deeds and wants his country back; Rockers d. Dwayne Gill/Barry Hardy; Warlord d. Sonny Blaze; (VIDEO) Tito Santana as El Matador; (SUMMER SLAM) Jake Roberts' cobra attack on Liz Poffo; (RULING) Randy Savage & Roddy Piper placed on 90-day probation in announce booth for actions; Jim Duggan d. Brian Donahue; (CLIP) Hogan in "Suburban Commando;" (ANGLE) On way to ring to face Thomas, Flair goes to broadcast area, pops Roddy Piper on neck. Piper/Flair nose-to-nose until Ric bashes Roddy w. NWA title belt. The refs & agents try to separate them. Roddy revives, goes for chair but mistakenly bashes Vince McMahon. Flair then creams Piper again w. chair. Show ends w. Roddy/Vince out on floor. POWERSLAM....the finale was an old-time NWA angle.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Steamboat d. Pat Tanaka; Nasty Boys d. Apollo/Pierce; Duggan d. Donahue; (UPDATE) Savage tells Okerlund about Savage Summit w. Jack Tunney; (VIDEO) Santana as El Matador; (GUEST) Big Bossman; I.R.S. d. Garcia; (CLIP) Bobby Heenan shows tape he insists is Bossman taking bribe; Ted DiBiase d. Jimmy Snuka; (CLIP) Hogan in "Suburban Commando;" Rockers d. Gill/Hardy; (GUEST) Lou Ferrigno; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Bearer w. Flair/Heenan; (GUEST) Roberts on "cobra" attack on Liz Poffo; Sid Justice d. Kato; Hart d. Brawler; (ANGLE) Bossman finds guy w. rubber Bossman mask who impersonated him in bribe clip. Guy says Heenan/IRS made him do it; Natural Disasters d. Milano/Roy; (FINALE) Bossman plops mask on Heenan, hauls him off in handcuffs. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - [REPEAT]: Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Alma Alvarez; Medusa Miceli d. LaGata; Terri Power d. Comrade Orga; Team America I d. Queen's Court when Bad, Black & Beautiful runs in. (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Chris Love/Queen's Court. NO RATING.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: Scott Anthony d. Chico Cabel-la; Renegade Warriors d. Texas Outlaws; Handsome Stranger d. Mike Blackheart; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino on Bill Irwin d. El Diablo; Steven Dane d. Action Jackson; Eddie Gilbert d. Reno Riggins; (NORTH AMERICAN TITLE) The Patriot d. Bad News by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [BEST OF MAJOR LEAGUE/Key Matches]: {Mon} Renegade Warriors d. Davis Bros.; Bad News d. Dane; Patriot d. Cactus Jack; Handsome Stranger d. Rod Price; Billy Black/Joel Deaton d. Brian Adias/Terry Daniels.

{Tue} Stranger d. Tom Davis when Tom decked by Mike Davis; PYTs d. Chaz/Terry Garvin; Patriot d. Price when Patriot ducks & Bill Irwin superkicks Price.

{Wed} Terry Gordy d. Cactus by countout; Stranger d. Dane but Chris Love lures away Dane; Davis Bros. d. Renegades.

{Thu} Patriot returns N. American belt after controversial win over Al Perez; Tatum/Price d. Young/Gaylord when Skandor Akbar holds Young's leg.

{Fri} <N.A. CHAMPIONSHIP> Patriot d. Perez to win belt when Eddie Gilbert decks Perez by error; (FINALE) Eddie flees for stands when Perez comes after him. NO RATINGS... all reruns.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Mike Servick d. Jim Bryant; (GLOBAL) John Tatum/Rod Price d. Gary Young/Jeff Gaylord; (CLASSIC/NWA) Brad Anderson/Colt Steel d. Gene Price/Darrell Woodworth; (POINT/COUNTERPOINT) Scott Hudson & Steven DeTruth debate Ric Flair in WWF; (INTL/MEXICO) Black Shadow d. Santo Jr.; Brute Force d. Chic & Ric Donovan. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - [USWA TAG TITLE] Texas Outlaws d. Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller to win belts when Billy Joe Travis plays El Kabong on Fuller's head w. guitar while ref tries to separate Jeff & Eric Embry outside. Jeff/Robert insist masked Outlaws are Barroom Brawlers; Dr. X d. Embry by countout when Eric runs. X unmask as Dutch Mantel; (REPLAY) Embry-Mantel saga; Travis/Bull Pain d. T.D. Steel/Freezer Thompson; (ANGLE) Freezer rejects Tojo Yamamoto's offer to join Texas Bunch; (6-MAN) Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee/Tony Anthony d. Randy Rhodes/Tim White/Scorpion. DRAW.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Ron Simmons d. Mike Fever; (HALLOWEEN HAVOC CONTROL CENTER) Gordon Solie on Chamber of Horrors match and music video of Lex Luger workout; Brian Pillman d. Terrence Taylor; Bill Kazmaier d. Joe Cezana but Cactus Jack runs in & stomps on Kaz's ribs until Sting saves; (From TBS) Tom Zenk says Luger's turned his back on him & fans. Lex/Race/Hughes triple on Zenk when Tom doesn't apologize. Lex pile-drives Zenk. Barry Windham/Dustin Rhodes/Simmons chase heels; (SEG) Zenk in ref's outfit; Bobby Eaton d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker; Johnny B. Badd d. Greg Sawyer. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WORLD WIDE]: Badd d. Peterson; Cactus Jack d. Ian Weston and Abdullah the Butcher bashes Ian after w. kendo stick; Enforcers d. Johnny Rich/Scott Allen but Freebirds have standoff w. Enforcers after; Rick Steiner d. Paul Lee; Brian Pillman d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker; Barry Windham d. Mike Thor; (CONTROL CENTER) same as WCW PRO; (CLASH) Sting-Cactus Jack angles; (ANGLES) Luger-Simmons feud; (FINALE) Eric Bischoff discovers Zenk writhing in agony from dressing room attack. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/TBS) - [WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Patriots d. Mike Thor/Fever. Zenk refs & dropkicks the two Mikes out after; (HALLOWEEN HAVOC C.C.) Same as syndie shows; Enforcers d. Joey Maggs/Sawyer; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Enforcers; Dustin Rhodes/Big Josh d. Parker/Bob Cook; Taylor d. Terry Bronson; (REPLAYS) 1. Luger bashes Barry Windham w. chair twice to juice as Barry sets to rub Race's face in mat. 2. Barry/Hughes brawl as Lex looks on; P.N. News d. John Peterson; Cactus d. Terry Hart & Abdullah the Butcher beats Hart w. kendo stick after; (SEG) Jim Ross interviews Cactus/Abby & says it'll be his last time doing that; Pillman d. Richard Morton when Brian pins Thomas Rich, who tries to run in. Morton comes down on Brian's knee w. laptop; Eaton d. Abby by DQ. Abby chairs Bobby before but.

Bobby rallies to chair Abby 5 times. Cactus brings out plywood. Cactus rails Bobby into second row. Rick Steiner tries save but Abby hits him w. kendo stick & DDTs him on plywood; (CLASH XVI) Cactus emerges from box to attack Sting; (OMNI) Luger d. Simmons w. piledriver on chair & subsequent triple-team of Windham; (CLASH) Luger-Simmons contract angle; (LAST WEEK) Second run of Luger chairing Windham. DRAW-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Pre-empted due to 13-inning Braves-Astros game.

(PORTLAND) - [POLE STRAP MATCH] Larry Oliver no contest vs. Bart Sawyer when Rip Oliver/Doug Masters/Mike Winner attack

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

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Sawyer & work him over until Steve Doll/Mike Miller/Crush Adams save; (ANGLE) Grappler/Don Harris skedded to defend PNW tag title vs. Crush/Miller but Grappler/Harris get into brawl w. each other, carried over from last week's splitup. Grappler goes to announce table. Ron Harris says his brother under influence of Rip & he doesn't agree w. it. But as Grap looks away, Ron powders him & Don creams Grap w. chair 3 times; ; John Rambo d. J.J. Funk; Miller/Adams d. Don Harris/Masters by DQ; Winner d. C.W. Bergstrom; (PACIFIC NW TITLE) Rip Oliver d. Doll to win belt using knucks. POWERSLAM.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - [SUNCOAST SOUTHERN TITLE] Tommy Rogers d. Firecat to retain belt; Chris Proctor/Gator Gilmore d. Black Panther/Big Sonny G. NO RATING.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Buck Zumhofe d. Jerry Blackwell; Baron Von Raschke d. Big John Studd; Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell no contest vs. Jesse Ventura/Adrian Adonis. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(IWCCW) - [REPEAT]: Joe Savoldi d. Zoom; Ray Oddyssey d. The Psycho; (FLA. FLASHBACK) Blackjack Mulligan/Barry Windham d. Scorpion/Collin Kid; Star Warrior d. Zap; Tazmaniac d. T.D. Madison. BOMB.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - All repeats except for Sept. 6 bout: El Hijo del Santo/Lizmark/Solitario d. Los Brazos 2-3 falls. BOMB.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Eddie Gilbert, AUTUMN ARMAGEDDON: "Cactus (Jack), we know where you lie. You sold your soul to Jim Herd." 2. Steven DeTruth, PW'91, on Craig Johnson: "He's so blind, he has to wear Coke-bottle glasses." 3. Boni Blackstone, WVEU: "You've heard of the thrill of victory? You've just heard the agony of DeTruth." 4. Buddy Landell, BEST OF MLW, on Jeff Gaylord: "He's strong as a garlic milkshake." 5. Landell, GLOBAL, on Gaylord: "Jeff's got a million dollar body with a 10-cent brain." 6. DeTruth, PW'91: "Look at that youthful gleam in Chic Donovan's eye. Oh no, that's just the ringlights hitting his bifocals." 7. Larry Zbyszko, WMC: "This whole planet is so soft, the Garden of Eden is the biggest toxic waste site in the whole galaxy." 8. Paul E. Dangerously, WCW, on Dustin Rhodes: "He's not out here to compile a video for MTV. He's keeping his opponents at bay." 9. Sean Mooney/Bobby Heenan, PTW: (SM) "This is a Big Bossman wrestling buddy." (BH) "Really? I thought it was a Vince McMahon doll." 10. Jerry Lawler, WMC: "I've never gone to the WWF because I wouldn't live in New York City if they gave me a penthouse in Trump Plaza."

11. Lawler, WMC: "Memphis, Tennessee, is as big-time as I want to get." 12. Jim Ross/Paul E., WCW: (JR) "Those boots have regulation soles." (PE) "So does Don Cornelius, so what does that mean?" 13. Paul E., WCW, on Cactus/Abby: "These guys give Freddy Krueger nightmares." 14. Paul E., WCW, on Cactus/Abby conversation: "Must be like Johnny Delmar talking to Charles Manson." 15. Janet Morgan/Mr. Kreller, CANDID CAMERA, on Bam Bam Bigelow: (JH) "I understand you called his mother a lowlife slime. What are you going to do about this, Mr. Kreller?" (Mr. K) "I'm gonna run." 16. Heenan, PTW, on 1-900-ATTACHED contest: "The winners get to meet the Savages. The losers get to meet the Savages twice." 17. Bill Kazmaier, WCW PRO, on himself/Brian Pillman: "I've got the muscle,

you've got the hustle." 18. Cactus Jack, WCW PRO: "Brian Pillman, when you feel that lump in your throat, it's not your emotions, it's your liver." 19. Heenan, PTW, to Lou Ferrigno: "I watched THE INCREDIBLE HULK all the time. The acting was great. That Bill Bixby was one of my favorite actors of all time." 20. Roddy Piper, SOW: "The only thing your suit's missing, McMahon, is frills."

21. Piper, SOW: "You know what L.O.D. stands for? Look Out, Dummy!" 22. Piper, SOW, on his & Savage's probations: "I'm surprised Jack Tunney could stay awake to get all that out." 23. Hudson, GLOBAL: "The Sultaker beat Scott Hall so bad, he forgot who he was."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Eric Bischoff/Diamond Dallas Page, WCW PRO, on Johnny B. Badd: (EB) "Not since the days of Gorgeous George have we seen anything like this." (DDP) "He has finally laid the legend of Gorgeous George to rest." 2. Lawler, WMC: "The WWF just wants to sell toys, games and cereal. They're not interested in pushing wrestling." 3. Arn Anderson, WCW: "While others look for a more grand way to enter the ring, we have found the key to enter, succeed and leave the ring. You may not call it flamboyance. I call it being a winner." 4. Sgt. Slaughter, SOW: "I got exactly what I deserved at SUMMER SLAM....I want my country back!"

BATHROOM HUMOR OF THE WEEK - Heenan/Jamieson, PTW, on roll of toilet paper trailing Jamieson: (BH) "Is that a paper chase?" (J) "At least I use toilet paper."

ADAPTATION FROM THE PAST - Gordon Solie, CONTROL CENTER: "A sidebar, if you please."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Zbyszko, WCW: "How does it feel to look at the last two real men on Planet Earth?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. SOW, Flair-Piper-McMahon angle. 2. CANDID CAMERA, Bam Bam Bigelow camel clutching Dom DeLuise. 3. BEVERLY HILLBILLIES, Granny tossing Mike Mazurki out of ring. 4. WMC, Billy Travis smashing Robert Fuller in head w. guitar. 5. WMC, Eric Embry creaming Jeff Jarrett w. tag title belts. 6. WCW, Larry Zbyszko taunting Joey Maggs. 7. WCW, Cactus making Terry Hart say "hello to mom." 8. WCW, Cactus' long-fly hipbuster on Hart. 9. WCW, Closeup of Cactus/Abby. 10. PTW, Bossman hauling off Heenan.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Page, WCW PRO: "It takes that referee 90 minutes to watch 60 MINUTES." Three weeks in a row, DDP. 2. Tom Zenk, WCW PRO: "...a thorn in your side."

BLOOPER AWARD - Bischoff, WCW PRO: "...the abominable stretch."

BOO AWARD - Page, WCW PRO, for the usual.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the remainder of October, short-term MATWATCH subscription rates are available as follows:

(U.S./CANADA) \$6 for 5 issues, \$12 for 11 issues.
(OVERSEAS) \$9 for 5 issues, \$18 for 11 issues.

Domestic and Canadian closeout rates are listed on page 6. Overseas closeout rates will be listed next week. CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

It's Being Considered**WILL VINCE TRY
A DOUBLE PAY?**

STAMFORD CT---Though no confirmation has come from Titan Sports officials, MATWATCH has learned owner Vince McMahon Jr. will likely offer a previously unscheduled pay-per-view cablecast less than one week after the Nov. 27 SURVIVOR SERIES.

MATWATCH attempted to reach Titan by telephone and fax last week but received no response.

But an executive of another promotion, who had been assured of a Dec. 8 pay-cable date, told MATWATCH his company was "strongly advised" to move away from the date and "this (an unscheduled Titan show) could explain why."

Sources close to the situation have told MATWATCH Titan would not even acknowledge it on-air until the night of the SURVIVOR SERIES (which moves to Thanksgiving Eve after three years on Thanksgiving night), after what is anticipated would be a major angle, possibly surrounding the planned Hulk Hogan vs. Undertaker main event.

If the show is a go, it would be offered either Dec. 3 or 4, likely at a lower price than SURVIVOR. The closest back-to-back shows Titan has ever attempted were in 1989 when the pre-taped NO HOLDS BARRED: THE MATCH, THE MOVIE was offered four weeks after SURVIVOR SERIES.

OCTOBERFEST: The first two weeks of WCW at Center Stage will center around an Enforcers-Freebirds challenge. Saturday Michael Hayes comes out early and issues a challenge to Arn & Larry. The 'Birds beat up scheduled Enforcer opponents Chris Sullivan & John Douglas, then take on the Enforcers in a non-title match.

A DEFENSE: Steve Austin, back in action after a knee injury, defends the WCW TV title Saturday vs. Curtis Thompson.

OUR NEW SET?: In a Cactus Jack/Abdullah vs. Scott Sandlin/John Faulkner match, Abby throws Sandlin into the new set and broke two panels. Jim Ross and some staffers were cringing.

BRIAN'S BONE: Pillman goes against Tommy Rich (his skedded opponent last week) in a match which will see Terrence Taylor and Big Josh get involved. Richard Morton was not at the taping because of some reported personal problems.

MID-OCTOBERFEST: Josh/Pillman vs. Rich/Taylor kicks off the Oct. 12 show. Austin defends the TV belt vs. Todd Champion in a match which will build the Austin-Dustin Rhodes title match for HALLOWEEN HAVOC. Axl Rotten debuts vs. Joey Maggs.

ANOTHER TITLE GO: The Enforcers defend the world tag belts Oct. 12 vs. the alleged English tag champs, the Screaming Eagles but if Eagles are 'Birds, you're on the right track.

ABSENTEE LIST: All not at Tuesday's taping: Ron Simmons, Sting (still in Japan), Curtis Hughes, El Gigante, Lex Luger, P.N. News---so one guesses their storylines will be elevated on tape for HALLOWEEN HAVOC.

ON CAMPUS: Joe Pedicino, a flu-stricken Boni Blackstone, Jim Cornette, Stan Lane and Chris Walker in Winston Salem NC

Thursday through Saturday at a college entertainment fair. Looks like GLOBAL will be touring a number of campuses between now and the spring.

THURSDAY THUMPS: Last Thursday, a CWF card at American Legion Post 39 in Tampa saw Coconut Kid d. Man Mountain Brody; Muhammad Stud d. Phil Donovan; Tex Salenger/Capt. Ron Slinker d. Hurricane Walker.

R.I.P.: The All-American Federation (AAWF) which provided the comedy for Chattanooga TV fans during the summer is now history. But an indie group is planning weekly Friday shows at the Cleveland (TN) Sports Arena beginning Friday. Billed are: Junkyard Dog, Mr. Atlanta, Dirty White Boy, The Gangsters of Love, The Loverboys and the Nightmare. You can bet Stan Lane is not part of that Gangster team.

LPWA UPDATE: Tor Berg has resurfaced and apparently has a \$3 million line of credit from a Netherlands financial group. If this proves true, expect LPWA to finally gear up for new tapings in late October or early November.

BIGELOW'S BUMPS: Bam Bam's segment on CANDID CAMERA was a scream. He stayed in character and a CC staffer posed as a reporter interviewing people visiting a hotel dressed in suits like John Nord's old Viking outfit. The Bammer literally scared the socks off some of the guys after the reporter suggested the "vikings" insulted Bam Bam's family.

MORE CANDIDLY: The Vin DiBona-produced CANDID showed clips of a past UWF show with Bigelow and Steve Williams in action in Pennsylvania.

MEMPHIS MAYHEM: Freezer Thompson is about to get his first push. After his match against Jerry Lawler on TV two weeks ago, Freezer was all offense Saturday on WMC and Dave Brown sold the Freeze as having been "working out with Lawler." After his tag loss, Freezer rejected a bid from Tojo Yamamoto to join Eric Embry's legion.

AT THE MID-SOUTH: The Coliseum's matches this past Monday: Lawler defending the USWA belt vs. Koko B. Ware; Eric Embry in a Southern title cage match vs. Dutch Mantel (Eddie Marlin reffed); Billy Joe Travis vs. Tony Anthony; the Texas Outlaws (Barroom Brawlers) defending the USWA tag title in a rematch vs. Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller.

ALSO STARRING: Danny Davis, who won back the USWA light heavyweight title before leaving Japan, put the belt up vs. The Goon; The New Kids went against the PYTs; and in a lumberjack affair, it was Bill Dundee vs. Bull Pain.

A GOOD MESSAGE: In previewing his title defense vs. Koko, Jerry Lawler did as good a job as you'll hear in summarizing the changes in TV wrestling since 1984 to the casual fan.

NO AWA: Unless things changed after last Monday, the TV GUIDE listings of AWA WRESTLING on Monday and Tuesday on ESPN were premature. We're told GLOBAL is working out details of producing two first-run shows per week, mixed with "best of" shows on other days.

SPECIAL THANKS: To Larry Katz, Jerry Moshenberg and Kimberly Murphy for surprising us with Steve Beverly Night on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW Sunday night. And thanks to the many folks we spoke with by phone. As Larry says, "You're great!"

(Continued on Page 6)

MATWATCH

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Vol. 4, No. 39/Sept. 30-Oct. 6

MATWATCH Memory

HILLBILLIES: A GLOW OF THE PAST

More than two years ago, we took a journey through episodes of television series which have focused on a wrestling theme.

The JACK BENNY segment where Jack refereed a match with Count Billy Varga; a DICK VAN DYKE SHOW ending with a cameo by Freddie Blassie demonstrating the "Twazzle," a dance of twisting and rasslin'; and a MATLOCK where Dick Butkus was accused of murder amid a war of promoters, all captivated us.

But last week WREG in Memphis reran a memorable two-parter of THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES, which must have served as fodder for David McLean's now-defunct G.L.O.W.

Granny (Irene Ryan) became livid at The Boston Stronggirl (Jerry Randall in drag) roughing up Rebecca of Donnybrook Farm (Gayle Caldwell), who was wrestling "to pay the mortgage on Donnybrook Farm." After watching the first fall of the two-out-of-three match, Granny ordered Jethro (Max Baer Jr.) to haul her to the "International Arena," where Bill Baldwin was calling play-by-play.

The crowd roared as Granny did a run-in and destroyed the Stronggirl to become the "world's champeen rassler."

In part two, the promoter (Alan Reed, the voice of Fred Flintstone) goads Jed and Elly May into joining Granny in a six-person tag match against The Stronggirl and her "parents." Jed, who had resisted, became provoked when Stronggirl's father, played by the great Mike Mazurki, tossed Granny through the front door of the Clampett mansion.

Commerce Bank president Milburn Drysdale (Raymond Bailey), who hated Rebecca's blasting of a "cruel banker," was a classic when the Clampetts came to the ring with robes bearing the words, COMMERCE BANK OF BEVERLY HILLS.

After an early dilemma, Granny rallied to single-handedly win the match. Watching Mazurki take an over-the-top rope bump from Granny's double alone is worth the watch.

A note of trivia: this is from the show's sixth season and the second episode finished number one for the week in the Nielsens, the last time HILLBILLIES was on top. For veteran fans who remember Mazurki, this is a can't miss.

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Holds at 2.6

WCW TAKES TOP SPOT

RATINGS
RAP

Inching up 4 per cent from its previous week's ratings, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING squeaked to the top in the Nielsen cable race for the week ending Sept. 23.

WCW, led by a Barry Windham-Curtis Hughes matchup, posted its a 2.6 rating with a 6.1 percent share of audience opposite a ABC regional CPA football, headed by Florida vs. Syracuse. WCW MAIN EVENT, pre-empted last Sunday, had won the previous week's race.

The Turner Saturday effort nosed out WWF ALL-AMERICAN, which jumped back to a 2.5, a 25% jump from the previous Sunday on USA.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING, centered around a Big Bossman-Bobby Heenan angle and a guest appearance by Lou Ferrigno, had registered its lowest Monday night rating ever Sept. 16 and could only manage a rally to a 2.3 with a low 3.3% share, opposite the tough CBS lineup and ABC's Chicago-New York Jets NFL game.

WCW POWER HOUR was up slightly to 1.5 with a Patriots-Enforcers match on top.

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 23	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 9/21)	2.6/6.1	1.49 million	2.8/6.1
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/22)	2.5/7.0	1.43 million	2.9/7.7
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/23)	2.3/3.3	1.33 million	2.6/4.0
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 9/21)	1.5/6.7	867,000	1.4/3.2
WCW MAIN EVENT	Pre-Empted		2.7/5.1

MATWATCHING (From Page 5)

TOUGH TIMES: Word is traveling that Titan Sports may be forced to downsize its office staff because of revenues running below projections. No wrestlers are to be affected and it's a sign of the entertainment times.

SUNCOAST SPOTS: Vern Henderson and Gator Gilmore won the Suncoast Florida tag tournament Saturday night in Palmetto FL. They defeated Charlie Fields and Giant Outlaw in the finals. Jumbo Baretta won the Suncoast Florida belt from Superstar.

UIW ALIVE: About 200 tix have been sold for UIW's Oct. 5 show in Hanover MD, which should be a boost for its woes.

MATWATCH

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